FY21 at a Glance

- Awarded 2,643 grants
- Obligated 100% of 1-year awards and 100% of FY20 2-year awards
- Prepared and certified 3,968 ASAP Authorization Increases and 1,202 Decreases
- Processed 65 Requesting and 29 Performing Inter-agency Agreements
- Cleared more than 300 inquiries regarding grant indirect costs and 22 negotiated indirect cost agreements
- Implemented Treasury’s Secure Payment System (SPS)
- Completed 45% more post award actions than in FY20
- Closed 62% more grant awards than in FY20
- Identified 111 risks in the Risk Register and presented 9 enterprise risks
- Completed compliance reviews at 10 institutions
Other Updates

- Filled ~104 of our ~139 Full Time Equivalent positions. Aggressive training in process.
- Policy Guide updated for 2 CFR 200 alignment to OMB for clearance and shared with partners; additional Policy Guide partner input received for inclusion in the 2022 annual update.
- Re-engineering RFAs: Working to incorporate stakeholder recommendations for RFA Improvements anticipated FY23.
- Revisions to NIFA Application Instructions for clarity and ease of use for stakeholders anticipated FY23.
- Development of Dashboards to track real time progress of program implementation and funds obligation.
Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA)

The SPIRA project is a planning and implementation tool used by NIFA to help provide visibility and accountability of program, financial, and policy staff from announcement to award.

- FY 2021 represented NIFA's pilot year—Development of SPIRA for Non-AFRI Competitive, AFRI, and Capacity Awards
- Enhancements will continue with SPIRA Pilot through FY 2023
- FY 2024—full implementation

Results

- Monthly calendar of anticipated RFA publication and due dates on NIFA Website for stakeholder planning
- Helped NIFA to identify unique program awarding requirements to better address stakeholder needs
- Streamline the time between the publication of the RFA and the notice of award
- Internally SPIRA has led to the development of the SPIRA Dashboard

The development of the SPIRA project has required participation from all units within NIFA, stakeholder feedback and a forward-thinking approach. NIFA will continue to make improvements as the pilot project develops and invite all stakeholders to provide feedback as we continue to improve this process.
SPIRA

• Project CAFÉ related activity
  • SPIRA Project: Completed first year pilot of the Schedule for Program Implementation from Request for Application (RFA) to Award
  • Continuing projected RFA publication schedule on NIFA’s website at https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar.

• FY 2021-Completed first year pilot of the Schedule for Program Implementation from RFA to Award (SPIRA).

• FY21 Published RFAs
  • Funding Opportunities-122 Competitive, Directed-Non-competitive, and Capacity RFAs, including New and COVID response programs
  • FY 2021 SPIRA incorporated 4 target release dates

• Estimated FY22 RFAs
  • Funding Opportunities- Approximately 102 Competitive, Directed-Non-competitive, and Capacity RFAs (56 competitive, 18 Non-competitive, and 18 continuations)
  • FY 2022 incorporated 6 target release dates

Anticipate earlier planning for FY 2023
OGFM Resources

- [Awards@USDA.gov](http://Awards@USDA.gov) (competitive grants)
- [CapacityGrantQuestions@USDA.gov](http://CapacityGrantQuestions@USDA.gov) (capacity grants)
- [1890@USDA.gov](http://1890@USDA.gov) (1890 Institution mailbox)
- [ASAPCustomerService@USDA.gov](http://ASAPCustomerService@USDA.gov) (ASAP help)
- [IndirectCostInquiries@USDA.gov](http://IndirectCostInquiries@USDA.gov) (indirect costs)
- [reimbursableagreements@usda.gov](http://reimbursableagreements@usda.gov) (Inter-Agency Agreements)
NIFA Resources

• Competitive Grants
• Capacity Grants
• Coronavirus FAQs
• Coronavirus Website
• NIFA Weekly Updates
Questions?